

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 08361 291412Z
ACTION SS-25

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R 291306Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6729
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

S E C R E T JIDDA 8361

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, SU
SUBJECT: US POLICY TOWARDS THE SUDAN

REF: (A) CAIRO 17750 (B) KHARTOUM 3832

1. AS AMBASSADOR EILTS RECALLS, THE SAG WAS FRIENDLY TOWARDS SADIQ AL MAHDI IN THE 1960'S WHEN COMMUNIST INFLUENCE WAS STRONG IN KHARTOUM. TO OUR RECOLLECTION SADIQ AL MAHDI VISITED SAUDI ARABIA IN MID/LATE 1974 WHEN HE RECEIVED TYPICALLY POLITE SAUDI HOSPITALITY BUT NO INDICATION THAT THE SAG SUPPORTED HIS POLITICAL AMBITIONS. TO THE BEST OF OUR RECOLLECTION HE HAS NOT RETURNED SINCE AND WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT HE HAS RECEIVED SUPPORT, FINANCIAL OR OTHERWISE, FROM THE SAG SINCE PRIOR TO THAT VISIT.

2. THE SAG APPEARS INCREASINGLY INVOLVED WITH THE NUMEIRI REGIME IN THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND, POSSIBLY SOON, THE MILITARY SENSE. I WOULD EXPECT THAT TREND TO CONTINUE AS LONG AS NUMEIRI CONTINUES TO DISPLAY ANTI-COMMUNIST SENTIMENTS.

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3. IF FAHMY COMPLAINS TO THE SAUDIS ABOUT OUR ALLEGED MEETINGS WITH MAHDI HE MAY AROUSE THEIR INTEREST, BUT IF HE IMPLIES THAT THEY ARE DOING SOMETHING ALONG SIMILAR LINES, I SUSPECT HE'LL GET A COME-UPPANCE. THEY DO NOT HOLD FAHMY IN VERY HIGH REGARD.

4. AS FOR GIVING FAHMY A "PAPER" OUTLINING US POLICIES TOWARDS THE SUDAN, ANYTHING WE GIVE TO HIM SHOULD ALSO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO AMBASSADOR BREWER TO GIVE TO NUMEIRI BEFORE FAHMY DOES, IF THE AMBASSADOR CONSIDERS IT USEFUL. THE SAUDIS SHOULD BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE IT FOR THE SAME REASON. I THINK IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO PUT ANY ARAB LEADER (FAHMY IN PARTICULAR) IN THE POSITION OF BEING ABLE TO PORTRAY HIMSELF AS A PROTECTOR OF OTHER ARABS WHO CAN EVOKE SUCH POLICY STATEMENTS FROM US IN THEIR BEHALF. IT IS OF COURSE POSSIBLE THAT THE SUDANIS ARE GETTING A LITTLE TOO CLOSE TO THE SAUDIS THESE DAYS TO SUIT THE EGYPTIANS.

PORTER

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